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NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CV 08

1667

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RECORDINGS, INC.; LAFACE RECORDS LLC; and
MOTOWN RECORD COMPANY, L.P.

ATLANTIC RECORDING CORPORATION, a
Delaware corporation; SONY BMG MUSIC
ENTERTAINMENT, a Delaware general
partnership; BMG MUSIC, a New York general
partnership; UMG RECORDINGS, INC., a
Delaware corporation; LAFACE RECORDS
LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; and
MOTOWN RECORD COMPANY, L.P., a
California limited partnership,
Plaintiffs,

v.

JOHN DOE,
Defendant.

CASE NO.

**EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR LEAVE
TO TAKE IMMEDIATE DISCOVERY**

Ex Parte Application for Leave to Take Immediate Discovery

Case No.

#36435 v1

1 Plaintiffs, through their undersigned counsel, pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 26
2 and 45, the Declaration of Carlos Linares, and the authorities cited in the supporting Memorandum
3 of Law, hereby apply *ex parte* for an Order permitting Plaintiffs to take immediate discovery.

4 In support thereof, Plaintiffs represent as follows:

5 1. Plaintiffs, record companies who own the copyrights in the most popular sound
6 recordings in the United States, seek leave of the Court to serve limited, immediate discovery on a
7 third party Internet Service Provider ("ISP") to determine the true identity of Defendant, who is
8 being sued for direct copyright infringement.¹

9 2. As alleged in the complaint, Defendant, without authorization, used an online media
10 distribution system to download Plaintiffs' copyrighted works and/or distribute copyrighted works to
11 the public. Although Plaintiffs do not know the true name of Defendant, Plaintiffs have identified
12 Defendant by a unique Internet Protocol ("IP") address assigned to Defendant on the date and time
13 of Defendant's infringing activity.

14 3. Plaintiffs intend to serve a Rule 45 subpoena on the ISP seeking documents that
15 identify Defendant's true name, current (and permanent) address and telephone number, e-mail
16 address, and Media Access Control ("MAC") address. Without this information, Plaintiffs cannot
17 identify Defendant or pursue their lawsuit to protect their copyrighted works from repeated
18 infringement.

19 4. Good cause exists to allow Plaintiffs to conduct this limited discovery in advance of a
20 Rule 26(f) conference where there are no known defendants with whom to confer.

21 ///

22 ///

23 ///

24
25
26 ¹ Because Plaintiffs do not yet know Defendant's true identity, Plaintiffs are unable to
27 personally serve Defendant with a copy of this motion. Instead, Plaintiffs will serve the Clerk of
28 Court pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(b)(2)(D) ("A paper is served under this rule by . . . leaving it with
the court clerk if the person has no known address.") and will serve Defendant's ISP with a copy of
this motion. Additionally, if the Court grants this motion, Plaintiffs will ask the ISP to notify the
Defendants of the subpoena and provide Defendant with an opportunity to object.

1 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs apply *ex parte* for an Order permitting Plaintiffs to conduct the
2 foregoing requested discovery immediately.

3 Dated: March 27, 2008

HOLME ROBERTS & OWEN LLP

4
5 By: 

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Attorney for Plaintiffs
ATLANTIC RECORDING
CORPORATION; SONY BMG MUSIC
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RECORDS LLC; and MOTOWN
RECORD COMPANY, L.P.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CV 08

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Delaware corporation; LAFACE RECORDS
LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; and
MOTOWN RECORD COMPANY, L.P., a
California limited partnership,
Plaintiffs,

v.

JOHN DOE,
Defendant.

CASE NO.

**MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT
OF *EX PARTE* APPLICATION FOR LEAVE
TO TAKE IMMEDIATE DISCOVERY**

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Plaintiffs, record companies who own the copyrights in the most popular sound recordings in
3 the United States, seek leave of the Court to serve limited, immediate discovery on a third party
4 Internet Service Provider ("ISP") to determine the true identity of Defendant, who is being sued for
5 direct copyright infringement. Without such discovery, Plaintiffs cannot identify Defendant, and
6 thus cannot pursue their lawsuit to protect their copyrighted works from repetitive, rampant
7 infringement.¹

8 As alleged in the complaint, Defendant, without authorization, used an online media
9 distribution system (e.g., a peer-to-peer or "P2P" system) to download Plaintiffs' copyrighted works
10 and/or distribute copyrighted works to the public. See Declaration of Carlos Linares ("Linares
11 Decl."), ¶ 18 (filed simultaneously herewith). Although Plaintiffs do not know the true name of
12 Defendant,² Plaintiffs have identified Defendant by a unique Internet Protocol ("IP") address
13 assigned to Defendant on the date and at the time of Defendant's infringing activity. Id.
14 Additionally, Plaintiffs have gathered evidence of the infringing activities. Id. ¶¶ 14-15, 19.
15 Plaintiffs have downloaded a sample of several of the sound recordings Defendant illegally
16 distributed and have evidence of every file (numbering in the hundreds) that Defendant illegally
17 distributed to the public. Id.

18 Plaintiffs have identified the ISP that provided Internet access to Defendant by using a
19 publicly available database to trace the IP address for Defendant. Id. ¶¶ 12, 18. Here, the ISP is
20 California State University, Monterey Bay ("Cal. State - Monterey"). Id. When given a Defendant's
21 IP address and the date and time of infringement, an ISP quickly and easily can identify the name
22 and address of a Doe Defendant (i.e., the ISP's subscriber) because that information is contained in
23
24

25 ¹ Because Plaintiffs do not currently know the identity of the Defendant, Plaintiffs cannot
26 ascertain the Defendant's position on this *Ex Parte* Application.

27 ² When using a P2P system (e.g., Ares, eDonkey, Gnutella, BitTorrent, or DirectConnect), a
28 Defendant typically uses monikers, or user names, and not his true name. Linares Decl., ¶ 10.
Plaintiffs have no ability to determine a Defendant's true name other than by seeking the information
from the ISP. Id. ¶¶ 10, 16.

the ISP's subscriber activity log files. *Id.* ¶ 16.³ Plaintiffs' experience is that ISPs typically keep log files of subscriber activities for only limited periods of time – which can range from as short as a few days, to a few months – before erasing the data. *Id.* ¶ 24. Plaintiffs alert the ISP to the existence of the copyright claims shortly after identifying the infringing activity and ask the ISP to maintain the log files.

Plaintiffs now seek leave of the Court to serve limited, immediate discovery on Cal. State - Monterey to identify the Defendant. Plaintiffs intend to serve a Rule 45 subpoena on Cal. State - Monterey seeking documents, including electronically-stored information, sufficient to identify the Defendant's true name, current (and permanent) addresses and telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, and Media Access Control ("MAC") addresses. If Cal. State - Monterey cannot link the IP address listed in the subpoena to a specific individual, Plaintiffs seek all documents and electronically-stored information relating to the assignment of that IP address at the date and time the IP address was used to infringe Plaintiffs' copyrighted sound recordings. Once Plaintiffs learn the Defendant's identifying information, Plaintiffs will attempt to contact Defendant and attempt to resolve the dispute. If the dispute is not resolved and it is determined that it would be more appropriate to litigate the copyright infringement claims in another jurisdiction, Plaintiffs will dismiss the present lawsuit against Defendant and re-file in the appropriate jurisdiction. Without the ability to obtain the Defendant's identifying information, however, Plaintiffs may never be able to pursue their lawsuit to protect their copyrighted works from repeated infringement. *Id.* ¶ 24. Moreover, the infringement may be ongoing such that immediate relief is necessary. Thus, the need for the limited, immediate discovery sought in this *Ex Parte* Application is critical.

II. BACKGROUND

The Internet and P2P networks have spawned an illegal trade in copyrighted works. *See* MGM Studios Inc. v. Grokster, Ltd., 545 U.S. 913, 923 (U.S. 2005). By downloading P2P software,

³ ISPs own or are assigned certain blocks or ranges of IP addresses. A subscriber gains access to the Internet through an ISP after setting up an account with the ISP. An ISP then assigns a particular IP address in its block or range to the subscriber when that subscriber goes "online." After reviewing the subscriber activity logs (which contain the assigned IP addresses), an ISP can identify its subscribers by name. Linares Decl., ¶ 16.

1 and logging onto a P2P network, an individual can upload (distribute) or download (copy), without
2 authorization, countless copyrighted music and video files to or from any other P2P network user
3 worldwide. See id. at 920 (detailing the process used by infringers to download copyrighted works);
4 A&M Records, Inc. v. Napster, Inc., 239 F.3d 1004, 1014 (9th Cir. 2001) (stating that infringers use
5 P2P networks to copy and distribute copyrighted works); Universal City Studios, Inc. v. Reimerdes,
6 111 F. Supp. 2d 294, 331 (S.D.N.Y.), aff'd sub nom., Universal City Studios, Inc. v. Corley, 273
7 F.3d 429 (2d Cir. 2001) (describing a viral system, in which the number of infringing copies made
8 available multiplies rapidly as each user copying a file also becomes a distributor of that file). Until
9 enjoined, Napster was the most notorious online media distribution system. Grokster, 545 U.S. at
10 924. Notwithstanding the Napster Court's decision, similar online media distribution systems
11 emerged that have attempted to capitalize on the growing illegal market that Napster fostered. These
12 include Ares, KaZaA, eDonkey, BitTorrent, DirectConnect, and Gnutella, among others. Linares
13 Decl., ¶ 6. Despite the continued availability of such systems, there is no dispute that the uploading
14 and downloading of copyrighted works without authorization is copyright infringement. Napster,
15 239 F.3d at 1014-15; In re Aimster Copyright Litig., 334 F.3d 643 (7th Cir. 2003), cert. denied, 124
16 S. Ct. 1069 (2004). Nonetheless, at any given moment, millions of people illegally use online media
17 distribution systems to upload or download copyrighted material. Linares Decl., ¶ 6. More than 2.6
18 billion infringing music files are downloaded monthly. L. Grossman, *It's All Free*, Time, May 5,
19 2003, at 60-69.

20 The propagation of illegal digital copies over the Internet significantly harms copyright
21 owners, and has had a particularly devastating impact on the music industry. Linares Decl., ¶ 9. The
22 RIAA member companies lose significant revenues on an annual basis due to the millions of
23 unauthorized downloads and uploads of well-known recordings that are distributed on P2P networks.
24 Id. ¶ 9. Evidence shows that the main reason for the precipitous drop in revenues is that individuals
25 are downloading music illegally for free, rather than buying it. See In re Aimster Copyright Litig.,
26 334 F.3d at 645.

1 III. ARGUMENT

2 Courts, including this circuit, routinely allow discovery to identify “Doe” defendants. See
 3 Wakefield v. Thompson, 177 F.3d 1160, 1163 (9th Cir. 1999) (error to dismiss unnamed defendants
 4 given possibility that identity could be ascertained through discovery); Valentin v. Dinkins, 121 F.3d
 5 72, 75-76 (2d Cir. 1997) (vacating dismissal; *pro se* plaintiff should have been permitted to conduct
 6 discovery to reveal identity of the defendant); Dean v. Barber, 951 F.2d 1210, 1215 (11th Cir. 1992)
 7 (error to deny the plaintiff’s motion to join John Doe defendant where identity of John Doe could
 8 have been determined through discovery); Munz v. Parr, 758 F.2d 1254, 1257 (8th Cir. 1985) (error
 9 to dismiss claim merely because the defendant was unnamed; “Rather than dismissing the claim, the
 10 court should have ordered disclosure of the Officer Doe’s identity”); Maclin v. Paulson, 627 F.2d 83,
 11 87 (7th Cir. 1980) (where “party is ignorant of defendants’ true identity . . . plaintiff should have
 12 been permitted to obtain their identity through limited discovery”).

13 Indeed, in similar copyright infringement cases brought by Plaintiffs, and/or other record
 14 companies, against Doe defendants for infringing copyrights over P2P networks, many courts,
 15 including this Court, have granted Plaintiffs’ motions for leave to take expedited discovery. See,
 16 e.g., Order, Maverick Recording Co. v. Does 1-4, Case No. C-04-1135 MMC (N.D. Cal. April 28,
 17 2004); Order, Arista Records LLC v. Does 1-16, No. 07-1641 LKK EFB (E.D.Cal. Aug. 23, 2007);
 18 Order, Sony BMG Music Ent’t v. Does 1-16, No. 07-cv-00581-BTM-AJB (S.D. Cal. Apr. 19, 2007);
 19 Order, UMG Recordings, Inc. v. Does 1-2, No. CV04-0960 (RSL) (W.D. Wash. May 14, 2004);
 20 Order, Loud Records, LLC v. Does 1-5, No. CV-04-0134-RHW (E.D. Wash. May 10, 2004); Order,
 21 London-Sire Records, Inc. v. Does 1-4, No. CV 04-1962 ABC (AJWx) (C.D. Cal. Apr. 2, 2004);
 22 Order, Interscope Records. v. Does 1-4, No. CV-04-131 TUC-JM (D. Ariz. Mar. 25, 2004) (true and
 23 correct copies of these Orders are attached hereto as Exhibit A). This Court should not depart from
 24 its well-reasoned decisions, or the well-reasoned decisions of other courts that have addressed this
 25 issue directly.

26 Courts allow parties to conduct expedited discovery in advance of a Rule 26(f) conference
 27 where the party establishes “good cause” for such discovery. See UMG Recordings, Inc., 2006 U.S.
 28 DIST. LEXIS 32821 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 6, 2000); Entertainment Tech. Corp. v. Walt Disney

1 Imagineering, No. Civ. A. 03-3546, 2003 WL 22519440, at *4 (E.D. Pa. Oct. 2, 2003) (applying a
 2 reasonableness standard); Semitool, Inc. v. Tokyo Electron Am., Inc., 208 F.R.D. 273, 275-76 (N.D.
 3 Cal. 2002); Yokohama Tire Corp. v. Dealers Tire Supply, Inc., 202 F.R.D. 612, 613-14 (D. Ariz.
 4 2001) (applying a good cause standard); Energetics Sys. Corp. v. Advanced Cerametrics, No. 95-
 5 7956, 1996 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 2830, *5-6 (E.D. Pa. March 8, 1996) (good cause standard satisfied
 6 where the moving party had asserted claims of infringement). Plaintiffs easily have met this
 7 standard.

8 First, good cause exists where, as here, the complaint alleges claims of infringement. See
 9 Interscope Records v. Does 1-14, No. 5:07-4107-RDR, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 73627, *3 (D. Kan.
 10 Oct. 1, 2007) (citations omitted) (“Good cause can exist in cases involving claims of infringement
 11 and unfair competition); Energetics Sys. Corp., 1996 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 2830 at *5-6 (good cause
 12 standard satisfied where the moving party had asserted claims of infringement); see also Semitool,
 13 208 F.R.D. at 276; Benham Jewelry Corp. v. Aron Basha Corp., No. 97 CIV 3841, 1997 WL
 14 639037, at *20 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 14, 1997). This is not surprising, since such claims necessarily
 15 involve irreparable harm to the plaintiff. 4 Melville B. Nimmer & David Nimmer, Nimmer On
 16 Copyright § 14.06[A], at 14-103 (2003); see also Taylor Corp. v. Four Seasons Greetings, LLC, 315
 17 F.3d 1034, 1042 (8th Cir. 2003); Health Ins. Ass’n of Am. v. Novelli, 211 F. Supp. 2d 23, 28
 18 (D.D.C. 2002) (“A copyright holder [is] presumed to suffer irreparable harm as a matter of law when
 19 his right to the exclusive use of copyrighted material is invaded.”) (quotations and citations omitted);
 20 ABKCO Music, Inc. v. Stellar Records, Inc., 96 F.3d 60, 66 (2d Cir. 1996).

21 Second, good cause exists here because there is very real danger the ISP will not long
 22 preserve the information that Plaintiffs seek. As discussed above, ISPs typically retain user activity
 23 logs containing the information sought for only a limited period of time before erasing the data.
 24 Linares Decl., ¶ 24. If that information is erased, Plaintiffs will have *no* ability to identify the
 25 Defendant, and thus will be unable to pursue their lawsuit to protect their copyrighted works. Id.
 26 Where “physical evidence may be consumed or destroyed with the passage of time, thereby
 27 disadvantaging one or more parties to the litigation,” good cause for expedited discovery exists.
 28 Interscope Records, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 73627 at *3 (citation omitted); see also Metal Bldg.

1 Components, L.P. v. Caperton, CIV-04-1256 MV/DJS, 2004 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 28854, *10-11
2 (D.N.M. April 2, 2004) (“Good cause is frequently found . . . when physical evidence may be
3 consumed or destroyed with the passage of time, thereby disadvantaging one or more parties to the
4 litigation.”) (citation omitted); Pod-Ners, LLC v. Northern Feed & Bean, 204 F.R.D. 675, 676 (D.
5 Colo. 2002) (allowing the plaintiff expedited discovery to inspect “beans” in the defendant’s
6 possession because the beans might no longer be available for inspection if discovery proceeded in
7 the normal course).

8 Third, good cause exists because the narrowly tailored discovery requests do not exceed the
9 minimum information required to advance this lawsuit and will not prejudice the Defendant. See
10 Semitool, 208 F.R.D. at 276 (“Good cause may be found where the need for expedited discovery, in
11 consideration of the administration of justice, outweighs the prejudice to the responding party.”).
12 Plaintiffs seek immediate discovery to identify the Defendant; information that may be erased very
13 soon. Plaintiffs (who continue to be harmed by Defendant’s copyright infringement, Linares Decl., ¶
14 9), cannot wait until after the Rule 26(f) conference (ordinarily a prerequisite before propounding
15 discovery) because there are no known defendants with whom to confer (and thus, no conference is
16 possible). There is no prejudice to the Defendant because Plaintiffs merely seek information to
17 identify the Defendant and to serve him or her, and Plaintiffs agree to use the information disclosed
18 pursuant to their subpoenas only for the purpose of protecting their rights under the copyright laws.
19 See Metal Bldg. Components, L.P., 2004 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 28854 at *12 (where “the requested
20 discovery is relevant and will be produced in the normal course of discovery,” the court was “unable
21 to discern any prejudice or hardship to Defendant” if discovery is conducted “on an expedited
22 basis.”).

23 Fourth, courts regularly grant expedited discovery where such discovery will “substantially
24 contribute to moving th[e] case forward.” Semitool, 208 F.R.D. at 277. Here, the present lawsuit
25 cannot proceed without the limited, immediate discovery Plaintiffs seek because there is no other
26 information Plaintiffs can obtain about the Defendant without discovery from the ISP. As shown by
27 the Declaration of Carlos Linares, Plaintiffs already have developed a substantial case on the merits
28 against each infringer. Plaintiffs’ complaint alleges a *prima facie* claim for direct copyright

1 infringement. Plaintiffs have alleged that they own and have registered the copyrights in the works
2 at issue, and that the Defendant copied or distributed those copyrighted works without Plaintiffs'
3 authorization. See Complaint. These allegations state a claim of copyright infringement. Nimmer
4 On Copyright § 31.01, at 31-3 to 31-7; Feist Publications, Inc. v. Rural Tel. Serv. Co., 499 U.S. 340,
5 361 (1991). In addition, Plaintiffs have copies of a sample of several of the sound recordings that
6 the Defendant illegally distributed to the public and have evidence of every file that the Defendant
7 illegally distributed to the public. See Complaint Ex. A; Linares Decl., ¶¶ 18-19. These more
8 complete lists show hundreds of files, many of them sound recordings (MP3 files) that are owned by,
9 or exclusively licensed to, Plaintiffs. See Linares Decl., ¶ 19. Plaintiffs believe that virtually all of
10 the sound recordings have been downloaded and/or distributed to the public without permission or
11 consent of the respective copyright holders. Id. Absent limited, immediate discovery, Plaintiffs will
12 be unable to obtain redress for any of this infringement.

13 Finally, Plaintiffs request that the Court make clear that Cal. State - Monterey is authorized
14 to respond to the subpoena pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C.
15 1232g ("FERPA"). Though FERPA generally prohibits disclosure of certain records by federally-
16 funded educational institutions, it *expressly* provides that information can be disclosed pursuant to
17 court order. See 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(2)(B). While Plaintiffs do not believe FERPA prevents the
18 disclosure of the information requested in the subpoena,⁴ universities and colleges have expressed
19 concern about their obligations under FERPA, and some have taken the position that a court order is
20 required before they will disclose subscriber information. Hence, Plaintiffs seek an appropriate
21 order explicitly authorizing Cal. State - Monterey to comply with the subpoena under 20 U.S.C. §
22 1232g(b)(2)(B).

23 If the Court grants this *Ex Parte* Application, Plaintiffs will serve a subpoena on Cal. State -
24 Monterey requesting documents that identify the true name and other information about Defendant
25 within 15 business days. Cal. State - Monterey then will be able to notify its subscriber that this
26

27 ⁴ Plaintiffs do not concede that FERPA prevents California State University, Monterey Bay,
28 from disclosing the type of information being requested by Plaintiffs, but believe that a properly
framed court order will make resolution of that issue unnecessary.

1 information is being sought, and Defendant will be able to raise any objections before this Court in
2 the form of a motion to quash prior to the return date of the subpoena. Thus, to the extent that
3 Defendant wishes to object, he or she will be able to do so.

4 **IV. CONCLUSION**

5 For the foregoing reasons, the Court should grant the *Ex Parte* Application and enter an
6 Order substantially in the form of the attached Proposed Order.

7 Dated: March 27, 2008

HOLME ROBERTS & OWEN LLP

8
9 By: 

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INTERSCOPE RECORDS; BMG MUSIC; SONY MUSIC
ENTERTAINMENT INC.; ATLANTIC RECORDING
CORP.; MOTOWN RECORD COMPANY, L.P.; and
CAPITOL RECORDS, INC.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

MAVERICK RECORDING COMPANY, a
California joint venture; WARNER BROS.
RECORDS INC., a Delaware corporation;
ARISTA RECORDS, INC., a Delaware
corporation; VIRGIN RECORDS AMERICA,
INC., a California corporation; UMG
RECORDINGS, INC., a Delaware
corporation; INTERSCOPE RECORDS, a
California general partnership; BMG MUSIC,
a New York general partnership; SONY
MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT INC., a
Delaware corporation; ATLANTIC
RECORDING CORPORATION, a Delaware
corporation; MOTOWN RECORD
COMPANY, L.P., a California limited
partnership; and CAPITOL RECORDS, INC.,
a Delaware corporation,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

DOES 1 - 4,

Defendants.

CASE NO. C-04-1135 MMC

**~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFFS' MISCELLANEOUS
ADMINISTRATIVE REQUEST FOR
LEAVE TO TAKE IMMEDIATE
DISCOVERY**

1 Upon the Miscellaneous Administrative Request of Plaintiffs For Leave To Take
 2 Immediate Discovery, the Declaration of Jonathan Whitehead and the exhibit thereto, Plaintiffs'
 3 Request for Judicial Notice, and the Declaration of Zuzana J. Svihra, it is hereby:

4 ORDERED that Plaintiffs may serve immediate discovery on the University of
 5 California, Berkeley to obtain the identity of each Doe Defendant by serving a Rule 45 subpoena
 6 that seeks information sufficient to identify each Doe Defendant, including the name, address,
 7 telephone number, e-mail address, and Media Access Control addresses for each Defendant.

8 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT any information disclosed to Plaintiffs in
 9 response to the Rule 45 subpoena may be used by Plaintiffs solely for the purpose of protecting
 10 Plaintiffs' rights under the Copyright Act.

11 Without such discovery, Plaintiffs cannot identify the Doe Defendants, and thus
 12 cannot pursue their lawsuit to protect their copyrighted works from infringement.

13
 14 Dated: April 28, 2004

James Larson U.S. Magistrate Judge
~~United States District Judge~~

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ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC.; INTERSCOPE RECORDS; LAFACE
RECORDS LLC; MAVERICK RECORDING COMPANY; MOTOWN
RECORD COMPANY, L.P.; PRIORITY RECORDS LLC; SONY BMG
MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT; UMG RECORDINGS, INC.; VIRGIN
RECORDS AMERICA, INC.; and WARNER BROS. RECORDS INC.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ARISTA RECORDS LLC, a Delaware limited liability
company; ATLANTIC RECORDING
CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation; BMG
MUSIC, a New York general partnership; CAPITOL
RECORDS, INC., a Delaware corporation; ELEKTRA
ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC., a Delaware
corporation; INTERSCOPE RECORDS, a California
general partnership; LAFACE RECORDS LLC, a
Delaware limited liability company; MAVERICK
RECORDING COMPANY, a California joint venture;
MOTOWN RECORD COMPANY, L.P., a California
limited partnership; PRIORITY RECORDS LLC, a
California limited liability company; SONY BMG
MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT, a Delaware general
partnership; UMG RECORDINGS, INC., a Delaware
corporation; VIRGIN RECORDS AMERICA, INC., a
California corporation; and WARNER BROS.
RECORDS INC., a Delaware corporation,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DOES 1-16,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 07-1641 LKK EFB

**ORDER GRANTING EX PARTE
APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO TAKE
IMMEDIATE DISCOVERY**

1 Upon the Plaintiffs' *Ex Parte* Application for Leave to Take Immediate Discovery,
2 the Declaration of Carlos Linares, and the accompanying Memorandum of Law, it is hereby
3 ORDERED that Plaintiffs may serve immediate discovery on University of California, Davis to
4 obtain the identity of each Doe Defendant by serving a Rule 45 subpoena that seeks documents that
5 identify each Doe Defendant, including the name, current (and permanent) addresses and telephone
6 numbers, e-mail addresses, and Media Access Control addresses for each Defendant.

7 Although parties must generally meet and confer prior to seeking expedited
8 discovery, that requirement may be dispensed if good cause is shown. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(d);
9 *Semitoool, Inc. v. Tokyo Electron Am., Inc.*, 208 F.R.D. 273, 275-76 (N.D. Cal. 2002). Here, the
10 plaintiffs have presented evidence that the subpoena is necessary to identify the defendants, serve
11 them with the complaint and summons, and prosecute their claims of copyright infringement. *See*
12 *Gillespie v. Civletti*, 629 F.2d 637, 642 (9th Cir. 1980) ("where the identity of alleged defendants
13 will not be known prior to the filing of a complaint . . . the plaintiff should be given an opportunity
14 through discovery to identify the unknown defendants, unless it is clear that discovery would not
15 uncover the identities, or that the complaint would be dismissed on other grounds."). Plaintiffs have
16 further averred that records kept by internet service providers ("ISP") such as the University of
17 California, Davis, are regularly destroyed, sometimes on a daily or weekly basis. *See* Linares
18 Declaration, at ¶ 24. Based on the foregoing, the court finds that plaintiffs have demonstrated good
19 cause for the expedited discovery.

20 The disclosure of this information is ordered pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(2)(B).
21 Consistent with that provision, if and when the University of California, Davis is served with a
22 subpoena, it shall, within five business days, give written notice to the subscribers whose identities
23 are to be disclosed in response to the subpoena. Such written notice may be achieved by messages
24 sent via electronic mail. If the University of California, Davis, and/or any defendant wishes to move
25 to quash the subpoena, they shall do so before the return date of the subpoena.

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT any information disclosed to Plaintiffs in
2 response to the Rule 45 subpoena may be used by Plaintiffs solely for the purpose of protecting
3 Plaintiffs' rights under the Copyright Act.

4
5 Dated: August 23, 2007.

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7 EDMUND F. BRENNAN
8 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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CLERK US DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BY RM DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SONY BMG MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT, a
Delaware general partnership; UMG
RECORDINGS, INC., a Delaware corporation;
ARISTA RECORDS LLC, a Delaware limited
liability company; CAPITOL RECORDS, INC., a
Delaware corporation; WARNER BROS.
RECORDS INC., a Delaware corporation;
INTERSCOPE RECORDS, a California general
partnership; PRIORITY RECORDS LLC, a
California limited liability company; ATLANTIC
RECORDING CORPORATION, a Delaware
corporation; FONOVisA, INC., a California
corporation; MAVERICK RECORDING
COMPANY, a California joint venture; MOTOWN
RECORD COMPANY, L.P., a California limited
partnership; ELEKTRA ENTERTAINMENT
GROUP INC., a Delaware corporation; BMG
MUSIC, a New York general partnership; VIRGIN
RECORDS AMERICA, INC., a California
corporation; and LAFACE RECORDS LLC, a
Delaware limited liability company,

Plaintiff,

v.

DOES 1 - 16,

Defendants.

Case No. 07CV 0581 BTM AJB

~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFFS' *EX PARTE*
APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO
TAKE IMMEDIATE DISCOVERY

1 Upon the Plaintiffs' *Ex Parte* Application for Leave to Take Immediate Discovery, the
2 Declaration of Carlos Linares, and the accompanying Memorandum of Law, it is hereby:

3 ORDERED that Plaintiffs may serve immediate discovery on SBC Internet Services, Inc. to
4 obtain the identity of each Doe Defendant by serving a Rule 45 subpoena that seeks documents that
5 identify each Doe Defendant, including the name, current (and permanent) addresses and telephone
6 numbers, e-mail addresses, and Media Access Control addresses for each Defendant. The disclosure
7 of this information is ordered pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 551(c)(2)(B).

8 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT any information disclosed to Plaintiffs in response to the
9 Rule 45 subpoena may be used by Plaintiffs solely for the purpose of protecting Plaintiffs' rights under
10 the Copyright Act.

11
12 DATED: 4-19-07

By: 
United States District Judge

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04-CV-00960-IFP

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

UMG RECORDINGS, INC., a Delaware corporation; ATLANTIC RECORDING CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation; WARNER BROS. RECORDS INC., a Delaware corporation; SONY MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT INC., a Delaware corporation; BMG MUSIC, a New York general partnership; and VIRGIN RECORDS AMERICA, INC., a California corporation,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DOES 1 - 2,

Defendants.

No. 04-0960(w)-L

[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR LEAVE TO
TAKE IMMEDIATE DISCOVERY

Upon the Motion of Plaintiffs for Leave to Take Immediate Discovery and the supporting Memorandum of Law, and the declaration of Jonathan Whitehead and the exhibit thereto, it is hereby:

ORDERED that Plaintiffs may serve immediate discovery on Microsoft Corporation to obtain the identity of each Doe Defendant by serving a Rule 45 subpoena that seeks information sufficient to identify each Doe Defendant, including the name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and Media Access Control addresses for each Defendant.

[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR LEAVE TO
TAKE IMMEDIATE DISCOVERY
Page 1

YARMUTH WILSDON CALPO PLLC
THE EDX TOWER
924 FOURTH AVENUE, SUITE 2000
SEATTLE, WA 98104
T 206 410 3000 F 206 510 3000

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT any information disclosed to Plaintiffs in
2 response to the Rule 45 subpoena may be used by Plaintiffs solely for the purpose of
3 protecting Plaintiffs' rights under the Copyright Act.
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5 Dated: May 14, 2008

Matthew S. Carnik
6 United States District Judge
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FILED IN THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

MAY 10 2004

JAMES R. LARSEN, CLERK
DEPUTY
SPokane, Washington

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

LOUD RECORDS, LLC, a
Delaware corporation; WARNER
BROS. RECORDS INC., a
Delaware corporation; ATLANTIC
RECORDING CORPORATION, a
Delaware corporation; VIRGIN
RECORDS AMERICA, INC., a
California corporation; PRIORITY
RECORDS LLC, a California
limited liability company;
ELEKTRA ENTERTAINMENT
GROUP INC., a Delaware
corporation; BMG RECORDINGS,
INC. a Delaware corporation;
ARISTA RECORDS, INC., a
Delaware corporation; BMG
MUSIC, a New York general
partnership; SONY MUSIC
ENTERTAINMENT INC., a
Delaware corporation; MAVERICK
RECORDING COMPANY, a
California joint venture; and
CAPITOL RECORDS, INC., a
Delaware corporation,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DOES 1-5,

Defendants.

NO. CV-04-0134-RHW

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS'
MOTION FOR LEAVE TO TAKE
IMMEDIATE DISCOVERY**

Before the Court is Plaintiffs' Motion for Leave to Take Immediate
Discovery (Ct. Rec. 7). The Plaintiffs, members of the Recording Industry
Association of America, Inc. ("RIAA"), have filed a complaint alleging that DOES

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR LEAVE TO TAKE
IMMEDIATE DISCOVERY * 1**

1 1-5 illegally engaged in uploading and downloading copyrighted recordings
2 through www.KaZaA.com, a peer to peer ("P2P") internet service (Ct. Rec. 1).
3 While Plaintiffs are unable to identify the Does, they collected records of
4 Defendants' Internet Protocol ("IP") address, the times the downloads or uploads
5 took place, and information regarding the specific recordings that were
6 downloaded or uploaded. The Plaintiffs were able to ascertain from Defendants'
7 IP addresses that they were utilizing Gonzaga University as their Internet Service
8 Provider ("ISP"). Plaintiffs seek statutory damages under 17 U.S.C. § 504(c),
9 attorneys fees and costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505, and injunctive relief under
10 17 U.S.C. §§ 502 and 503.

11 In their Motion for Leave to Take Immediate Discovery, the Plaintiffs seek
12 leave to serve Gonzaga University, the ISP for Does 1-5, with a Rule 45 Subpoena
13 Duces Tecum, requiring Gonzaga University to reveal the Defendant's names,
14 addresses, email addresses, telephone number, and Media Access Control
15 ("MAC") addresses.

16 The Ninth Circuit has held that "where the identity of alleged defendants
17 will not be known prior to the filing of a complaint . . . the plaintiff should be
18 given an opportunity through discovery to identify the unknown defendants,
19 unless it is clear that discovery would not uncover the identities, or that the
20 complaint would be dismissed on other grounds." *Gillespie v. Civiletti*, 629 F.2d
21 637, 642 (9th Cir. 1980). Presumably, the discovery device anticipated by this
22 ruling was Rule 45, under which a party may compel a nonparty to produce
23 documents or other materials that could reveal the identities. See *Pennwalt Corp.*
24 *v. Durand-Wayland, Inc.*, 708 F.2d 492 (9th Cir. 1983). The Court finds that this
25 instance presents the very situation indicated by *Gillespie*. The Plaintiffs' case
26 relies on the disclosure of the Does' identities, and those identities are likely
27 discoverable from a third party.

28 Under Rule 26(d), Rule 45 subpoenas should not be served prior to a Rule

ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR LEAVE TO TAKE
IMMEDIATE DISCOVERY * 2

1 26(f) conference unless the parties can show good cause. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(d) ("a
2 party may not seek discovery from any source before the parties have conferred as
3 required by Rule 26(f) [u]nless the court upon motion orders
4 otherwise"); see *Semitool, Inc. V. Tokyo Electron Am., Inc.*, 208 F.R.D. 273, 275-
5 76 (N.D. Cal. 2002). The Plaintiffs have presented compelling evidence that the
6 records kept by ISP providers of IP addresses are regularly destroyed. Thus, good
7 cause has been shown.

8 Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED** that:

9 1. Plaintiffs' Motion for Leave to Take Immediate Discovery (Ct. Rec.
10 7) is **GRANTED**.

11 2. Plaintiffs are **GIVEN LEAVE** to serve immediate discovery on
12 Gonzaga University to obtain the identity of each Doe Defendant by serving a
13 Rule 45 subpoena duces tecum that seeks each Doe Defendants' name, address,
14 telephone number, email address, and Media Access Control address. As agreed
15 by Plaintiffs, this information disclosed will be used solely for the purpose of
16 protecting their rights under the copyright laws.

17 3. Plaintiffs are **ORDERED** to review Local Rule 7.1(g)(2) regarding the
18 citation of unpublished decisions. All unpublished decisions cited to the Court
19 have been disregarded.

20 **IT IS SO ORDERED.** The District Court Executive is hereby directed to
21 enter this order and to furnish copies to counsel of record.

22 DATED this 10 day of May, 2008.

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24 
25 **ROBERT H. WHALEY**
26 United States District Judge

27 Q:\Civil\2004\Loud Records\Loud.immediatediscovery.order.wpd
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**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR LEAVE TO TAKE
IMMEDIATE DISCOVERY * 3**

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002

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 WESTERN DIVISION

CIVIL MINUTES - GENERAL

Case No. CV 04-1962 ABC (AJWx)

Date: April 2, 2004

Title: LONDON-SIRE RECORDS, INC., et. al., v. DOES 1-4

=====

PRESENT:

HON. ANDREW J. WISTRICH, MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Ysela Benavides

Deputy Clerk

 Court Reporter

ATTORNEYS PRESENT FOR PLAINTIFFS:
 None Present

ATTORNEYS PRESENT FOR DEFENDANTS:
 None Present

ORDER REGARDING PLAINTIFFS' EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO
 TAKE IMMEDIATE DISCOVERY

Plaintiffs are thirteen record companies who have filed a lawsuit against four unnamed "doe" defendants for alleged copyright infringement. Plaintiffs filed a motion for leave to take immediate discovery on March 23, 2004. [Notice of Ex Parte Application for Leave to Take Immediate Discovery ("Notice") filed March 23, 2004]. Plaintiffs allege that defendants, using an online peer-to-peer ("P2P") media distribution system, made available for distribution, and in fact distributed, copyrighted songs without license or other authority to do so, thereby infringing plaintiffs' copyrights. [See Memorandum of Law in Support of Ex Parte Application For Leave to Take Immediate Discovery ("Memorandum") filed March 23, 2004, at 2]. Plaintiffs have acquired the Internet Protocol ("IP") addresses assigned to each of the four defendants on the dates and times of the infringing activity. [Memorandum 2]. Using a public database, plaintiffs determined that the subject IP addresses belong to the University of Southern California ("USC"). [Memorandum 2-3]. As an Internet Service Provider ("ISP"), USC maintains a subscriber activity log indicating which of its subscribers were assigned the IP addresses in question on the relevant dates and times. [Memorandum 3]. In plaintiffs' experience, most ISPs maintain subscriber activity logs for only a short period of time before destroying the information contained in the logs. [Memorandum 3]. From the subscriber logs, USC can use the IP addresses and temporal information provided by plaintiffs to identify the true names, street addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and Media Access Control ("MAC") addresses for each defendant. [Memorandum 3]. Plaintiffs ask this Court to allow immediate issuance of a subpoena directing USC to produce defendants' names and the other personal information described above so that plaintiffs may contact defendants in an attempt to negotiate a resolution to plaintiffs' claims, or failing that, to add defendants as named parties to this litigation.

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003

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CIVIL MINUTES--GENERAL

Generally, parties must meet and confer prior to seeking expedited discovery. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f). That requirement, however, may be dispensed with if good cause is shown. See Semitool, Inc. v. Tokyo Electron Am., Inc., 208 F.R.D. 273, 275-76 (N.D. Cal. 2002). Plaintiffs have shown good cause. The true identities of defendants are unknown to plaintiffs, and this litigation cannot proceed without discovery of defendants' true identities. [See Memorandum 7-9].

Subject to the following qualifications, plaintiffs' ex parte application for leave to take immediate discovery is granted.

If USC wishes to file a motion to quash the subpoena or to serve objections, it must do so before the return date of the subpoena, which shall be no less than twenty-one (21) days from the date of service of the subpoena. Among other things, USC may use this time to notify the subscribers in question.

USC shall preserve any subpoenaed information or materials pending compliance with the subpoena or resolution of any timely objection or motion to quash.

Plaintiffs must serve a copy of this order on USC when they serve the subpoena.

Any information disclosed to plaintiffs in response to the Rule 45 subpoena must be used by plaintiffs solely for the purpose of protecting plaintiffs' rights under the Copyright Act as set forth in the complaint.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

cc: Parties

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CLERK U S DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF ARIZONA	
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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

Interscope Records, et al.,
Plaintiffs,
v.
Docs 1 - 4,
Defendants.

No. CV-04-131 TUC - JM

ORDER

Pending before the Court is the Plaintiffs' *ex parte* Motion for Leave to Take Immediate Discovery [Docket No. 2]. Upon consideration of the Motion and the supporting Memorandum of Law, and the declaration of Jonathan Whitehead and the exhibit attached thereto, it is hereby:

ORDERED that Plaintiffs' Motion for Leave to Take Immediate Discovery [Docket No. 2] is GRANTED;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiffs may serve immediate discovery on the University of Arizona to obtain the identity of each Doe Defendant by serving a Rule 45 subpoena that seeks information sufficient to identify each Doe Defendant, including the name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and Media Access Control addresses for each Defendant;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any information disclosed to Plaintiffs in response to the Rule 45 subpoena shall be used by Plaintiffs solely for the purpose of protecting Plaintiffs' rights under the Copyright Act as set forth in the Complaint;

JM

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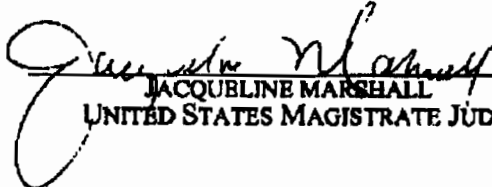
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1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if and when the University of Arizona is served
2 with a subpoena, within five (5) business days thereof it shall give written notice, which can
3 include use of e-mail, to the subscribers whose identities are to be disclosed in response to
4 the subpoena. If the University of Arizona and/or any Defendant wishes to move to quash
5 the subpoena, they shall do so before the return date of the subpoena, which shall be twenty-
6 five (25) business days from the date of service;

7 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if and when the University of Arizona is served
8 with a subpoena, the University of Arizona shall preserve the data and information sought
9 in the subpoena pending resolution of any timely filed motion to quash;

10 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that counsel for Plaintiffs shall provide a copy of this
11 Order to the University of Arizona when the subpoena is served.

12 Dated this 25th day of March, 2004.

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16 JACQUELINE MARSHALL
17 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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